

The First Busy Week of Remaking Our World

The Peace Conference Decides on a Russian Policy

IN PARIS a handful of men are making the world over. It is like a picture puzzle; little by little a new pattern appears out of the confusion of old ideas and old inertias. The peace conference has been in session only a brief time, and the world begins to see a definite shape growing out of the mass of unrelated facts presented to it. The Supreme Council, a commanding body representing the five great powers—the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan—associated in the war, started its sessions with machine-like regularity, and now several of the most important details awaiting settlement face some kind of definite action.

The diplomacy of 1919 is to result in "open covenants of peace, openly arrived at," due to the vehement protest of American and British protests against rules of secrecy early adopted by the conference. Russia, so long a menace to the future peace of mankind, may emerge from the mysterious recesses that have held it, and be come illuminated by representatives of various Russian factions who have been invited to a conference. At the time of writing representatives of factions opposed to the Bolsheviks show signs of refusing the invitation to participate in a conference. The league of nations, a phrase of varied magic among Realists, is finding its way to a kind of reality, according to late communications from Paris. Correspondents agree there will be a league of some kind to enforce the peace of the world. Characteristics of it are already visible to observers of the international field. A dispatch to The Tribune on Friday says President Wilson has endorsed the Smuts plan and four of the great nations have signified their acceptance of the principles involved.

Lesser lights burn on the many peaks of a changing world. In Ireland the Sinn Féin meets and declares Ireland a free republic, with British authority staying its hand from violent interference. The Majority Socialists, the Ebert government, win at the German polls, seeming to insure stability. Portugal tries to turn the wheel over again, and late communications say Manuel has left London and awaits somewhere outside of Lisbon the result of monarchist demonstrations in his favor.

Opening the Peace Doors

A dispatch to The Tribune says that the extension of news privileges in the peace conference, after the rule limiting news announcements to a daily communiqué has been adopted, was due to the vigorous protest of Anglo-American newspapermen. The five-power agreement to divulge no news except in the official communiqué, with power to bar any news on the motion of any power, was met with widespread surprise and disagreement on both sides of the Atlantic. News dispatches say that journalists of powers where public discussion of the news is not so free were slow to protest. Suggestions from the associated journalists at the conference for a change in the ruling were received sympathetically by the conferees. The result was the change in the ruling, giving journalists representation at open and full sessions, but not in committee meetings.

Clemenceau's assertion before the Supreme Council of the peace conference that "The league of nations is here. It is yourselves," is borne out by the development of events at the conference. Correspondents agree that the conference will use its power and time to lay down broad principles for the progress of international relations, that it will make a preliminary peace, leaving many of the details to be filled out later. Disarmament and an international police force are among the details that must await settlement.

"The general indications," declares an Associated Press dispatch early last week, "are that the statements of the principal nations are steadily drawing together on a structure which will have the support of all, the informal discussion having brought the community of ideas to a point where it may reasonably be expected to appear on paper." With respect to disarmament, the dispatch represents opinion at the conference as holding that "no nation would dispose of instruments by which it expects to defend itself until it has been demonstrated that the forces proposed as a substitute will be efficient."

At the time this review of events will appear in print, a more definite statement will have issued from the conference as to the form of the league of nations. Even with this conclusion in mind, it is not without interest to point



'Guard the door'

—Brooklyn Eagle



That Paris poker game

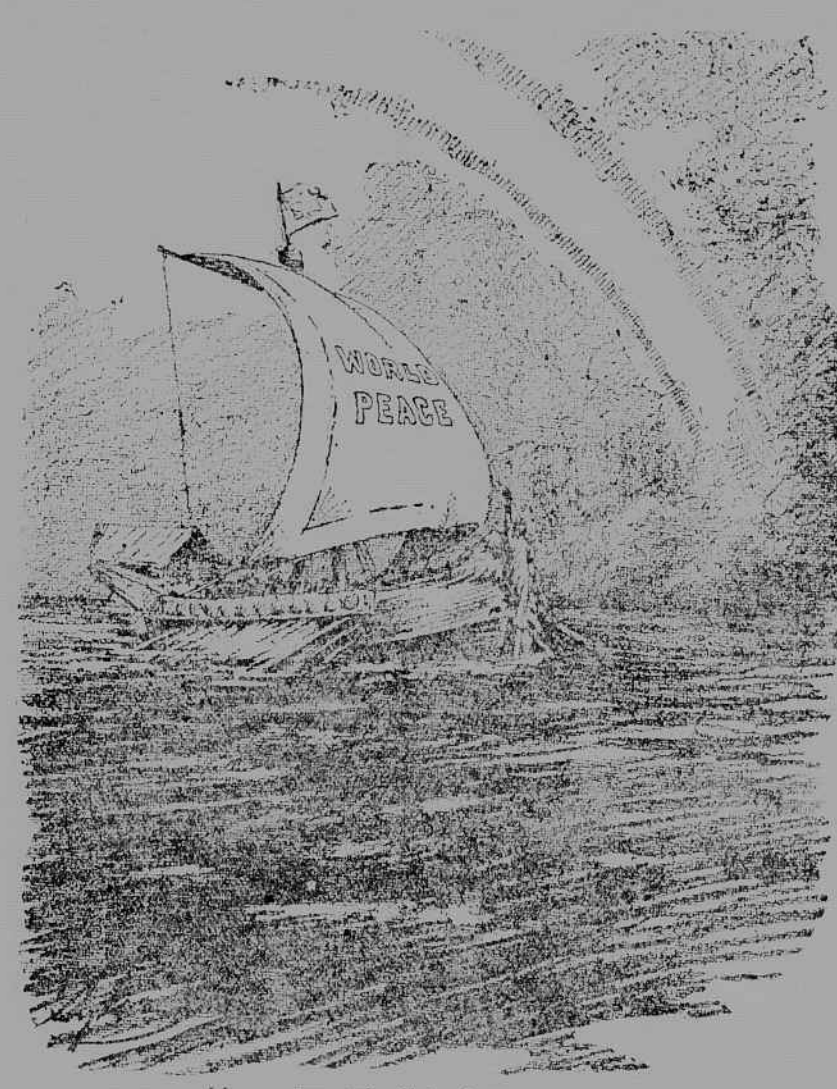
—Baltimore Sun

to successive steps in the minds of the responsible statesmen with respect to their undertaking.

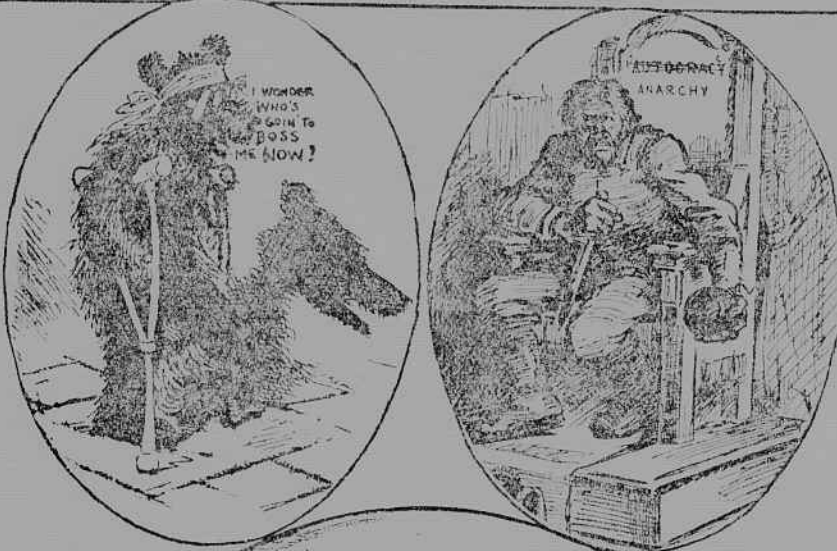
President Wilson addressed the French Senate Monday, the second day of the conference sessions, and pointed out that the world has awakened to "its community of interest, and it knows its future depends on this community of interest. . . . It knows that if the peril to which France has been exposed is continued, the menace will reach the entire world—against this it is not alone France, it is the entire world which must organize itself."

Lord Robert Cecil is quoted by The Associated Press as presenting for public review the British plan, which would include in the league all "trustworthy nations," with the inclusion of Germany and Austrian state units after their periods of economic and political disturbances had passed. These states would in this manner endure a period of probation which would force them to prove their fitness for membership in the league.

The latest news reports of the foundation for the league plan, previous to the actual announcements itself, provide for a compulsory investigation of all disputes; an international court of inquiry with original jurisdiction, and the power to forbid hostilities while investigations are pending. There is fore-

Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!

—Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger



Easy pickings

—Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger



Safety first

—Dallas Morning News



Obsolete

—Baltimore Sun

Memphis Commercial
Appeal

First
came
the discussion
of
publicity,
then of the
Russian
problem,
and finally
the League
of
Nations

cast of a provision to use economic force against recalcitrant nations.

The provisions for the prevention of war in the plan for a league of nations, fathered by General Smuts, and which President Wilson is reported to have adopted, are as follows:

"That the peace treaty shall provide that the members of the league shall bind themselves jointly and severally not to go to war with one another without previously submitting the matter in dispute to arbitration or inquiry by the council of the league, and not before there has been an award or a report by the council, and not even then as against a member which complies with the award or recommendation, if any is made by the council in its report."

The council is to meet periodically, and will, in addition, hold annual meetings of the prime ministers or foreign secretaries for general interchange of views and for review of the general policies of the league.

Observers at the conference view with interest the situation which may result from demands for an increased independence of action by parts of the British Empire. News articles of the week describe the tentative plans of the self-governing dominions of the empire, asking for admission to the league on the status of individual states, with a recognized internal sovereignty, allowing for British control only so far as foreign relations are concerned. Canada, Australia, New Zealand and, with less pro-

And Approaches Practical Agreement on a League of Nations

nounced emphasis, South Africa all ask admission on the same basis as Belgium.

The entire action of the Supreme Council of the conference in its early stages is aimed at the statement of problems and the delegation of inquiry into them to committees. This was the action taken on Saturday with respect to four of the important problems arising before the conference for settlement—international labor legislation, responsibility and punishment for the war, indemnities and the internationalization of ports, waterways and railways. A part of the process of inquiry is, however, more public and of a less routine nature. In instance is the decision of the council on its attitude toward the entire Russian problem, after several hearings accorded statesmen who were informed about Russia, and the delegation of an enunciation of principles on Russia to President Wilson, as a member of the conference.

The decision of the conference to invite representatives of all factions to present their delegates at a special conference followed a discussion that has raged heatedly for a long period. A short time ago public announcement was made of the British plan for dealing with the Russian problem, a plan which in many respects resembled the plan now officially adopted. At that time, Stephen Pinchon, of the French Ministry, violently assailed any plan which would involve any degree of recognition of the Bolshevik government in Russia. One correspondent, in commenting on this opposition, drew attention to the large investments of French capital in Russia, endangered by the Lenin-Trotsky régime, but most commentators declare that the French opposition is more directly aimed toward a demand for a more stable bulwark against German expansion in the East than the Soviets will be able to maintain.

M. Noulens, French Ambassador to Petrograd, and a witness of many of the reported excesses of the present government, appeared before the Supreme Council of the peace conference a few days ago and spoke feelingly of the need of suppressing the Bolshevik in Russia.

"Until the régime is overthrown," he said, "which I hope to see the Allies actively undertake, Europe will continue to be exposed to the severest risks of agitation and war."

Minister Scavenius, Danish Minister to Russia, also protested before the Supreme Council in equally energetic tones against allowing the Russian problem to go to settlement without active intervention against Bolshevism.

Ways of Approaching The Problem

Three views have been reported from the conference of the kind of action that should be taken. One view, widely supported by France and Japan, favored intervention and the overthrow of the Bolshevik forces. Another plan was for Allied assistance to other factions, thus indirectly supporting the suppression of the Soviet groups. The third view, which is in accord with the view of the American and British delegates, was for the withdrawal of troops and the creation of a working agreement to help Russia arrange its internal affairs, and bring some economic and social order out of its present confusion.

These are the essentials of the Russian plan, as enunciated by President Wilson on the request of his associates in the conference.

All Russian factions must cease hostilities prior to February 15.

Aggressive military action within Russia will cease and troops will be withdrawn.

Representatives of all Russian and Siberian factions will meet representatives of the Allied forces at Princes' Islands, in the Sea of Marmora, on February 15, there to discuss the Russian situation.

Accompanying this declaration of procedure was a declaration of attitudes toward Russia.

"The single object," said President Wilson, "the representatives of the associated powers have had in mind in their discussions of the course they should pursue with regard to Russia, has been to help the Russian people, not to hinder them or interfere in any manner with their right to settle their own affairs in their own way. They regard the Russian people as their friends, not their enemies, and are willing to help them in any way they are willing to be helped. . . . They recognize the absolute right of the Russian people to direct their own affairs without dictation or direction of any kind from outside. They do not wish to exploit or make use of Russia in any way. . . ."

(Continued on page two).

The Five Powers Which Form the Supreme Council



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Baron Makino

Premier Lloyd George

President Wilson

Premier Clemenceau

Premier Orlando